

Appln No. 10/510,617
Amdt date January 3, 2007
Reply to Office action of July 31, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 Canceled

11. (new) A pharmaceutical mixture for treating rheumatism, comprising:

Tripterygium hypoglaucum (Levl.) Hutch. 1-4 parts by weight;

Epimedium brevicornum Maxim. 1-4 parts by weight;

Lycium barbarum L. 1-4 parts by weight; and,

Cuscuta chinensis Lam., or *Cuscuta australis* R. Br., 1-4 parts by weight.

12. (new) The pharmaceutical mixture according to claim 11, wherein

Tripterygium hypoglaucum (Levl.) Hutch. is 2 parts by weight;

Epimedium brevicornum Maxim. is 2 parts by weight;

Lycium barbarum L. is 1 part by weight; and,

Cuscuta chinensis Lam., or *Cuscuta australis* R. Br., 1 part by weight.

13. (new) A method for preparing the pharmaceutical mixture according to claim 11,
comprising:

providing and cutting the *Tripterygium hypoglaucum* (Levl.) Hutch into pieces;

providing and cutting the *Epimedium brevicornum* Maxim into pieces;

providing and optionally crushing the *Lycium barbarum* L;

providing and optionally crushing the *Cuscuta chinensis* Lam;

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optionally combining two or more of the herbs to make an herb mixture;
extracting the herb mixture or individual herbs in a 0 to 95% alcohol/water mixture, at a temperature in the range of 1 to 98 °C, 1 to 4 times, to form one or more extracted liquor(s)/alcohol mixtures;
optionally mixing the extracted liquor(s)/alcohol mixtures;
recovering the extracted liquors from the extracted liquor(s)/alcohol mixtures;
condensing, drying, and smashing the extracted liquor(s) to form extracted herb powders;
and,
mixing the extracted herb powders uniformly or proportionally to form a pharmaceutical mixture.

14. (new) A method for preparing the pharmaceutical mixture according to claim 11, comprising:

weighing the raw herbs according to the specified parts by weight;
cutting *Epimedium brevicornum* Maxim into pieces;
cutting the *Tripterygium hypoglaucum* (Levl.) Hutch into pieces;
decocting the *Epimedium brevicornum* Maxim pieces with water three times;
decocting the *Tripterygium hypoglaucum* (Levl.) Hutch pieces with water three times;
immersing each of *Lycium barbarum* L or *Cuscuta chinensis* Lam in water at a temperature in the range of 80°C ~ 95°C for 1 to 3 times respectively;
blending the decocted and immersed herbs to form a mixed fluid,
loading the decocted or immersed fluid from each herb on a corresponding macroporous polymeric adsorbent column;

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absorbing each decocted or immersed fluid onto the corresponding macropore polymeric absorbent column;

washing each resin column with water until effluent becomes clear,

eluting each resin column with 30-99.5% alcohol to form an eluting liquor;

collecting the eluting liquor while the color ranges from a deep color to a very weak color;

forcing alcohol out of the column with water;

mixing the alcohol with the eluting liquor, wherein the weight of total eluent is 1 to 8 times the weight of the raw herbs;

recovering all 4 of the eluting liquors from the alcohol;

separately condensing all 4 of the eluting liquors to a specific density of 1.10;

spray drying each of the condensed eluting liquors to form extracted herb powders; and,

mixing the herb powders to form the pharmaceutical mixture.

15. (new) The pharmaceutical mixture according to claim 11, wherein the mixture is in the form of a hard capsule, soft capsule, tablet, granule, or injectable liquid.

16. (new) A method for preparing the pharmaceutical mixture according to claim 11, comprising:

providing and cutting *Tripterygium hypoglaucum* (Levl.) Hutch into small pieces;

extracting from the *Tripterygium hypoglaucum* (Levl.) Hutch three times with water a decoction fluid, wherein the weight of the water is 13, 10, 10 times the weight of the un-extracted herb respectively, with each extraction lasting 1 hour;

providing and cutting *Epimedium brevicornum* Maxim into segments;

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extracting from the *Epimedium brevicornum* Maxim three times with water a decoction fluid, wherein the weight of the water is 15, 10, 10 times the weight of the un-extracted herb respectively with each extraction lasting 1 hour;

crushing *Lycium barbarum* L to a coarse powder and immersing the powder in 20 times by weight of water, at 80°C-95°C for 1 hour;

crushing *Cuscuta chinensis* Lam to a coarse powder and immersing the powder in 31 times by weight of water, at 90°C for 1 hour;

filtering the decoction fluid or immersion fluid of four herbs separately;

pouring each filtered fluid through a macroporous polymeric adsorbent resin column;

eluting each column with 70% ethanol until the color of effluent becomes deep;

continuously collecting the effluent until the color of the effluent becomes very weak;

recovering the alcohol in the effluent of each herb;

concentrating and drying the remaining fluid of each herb to form an extract powder from each herb; and,

mixing the extract powder from each herb uniformly and proportionally to form a pharmaceutical mixture.

17. (new) A method for treating the rheumatoid and rheumatoid arthritis, comprising: administering the pharmaceutical mixture of claim 11 to a patient in need thereof.

18. (new) The method according to claim 17, wherein the pharmaceutical mixture is administered in the form of a hard capsule, soft capsule, tablet, granule, or injection.